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the annexation of Texas, and argued against the views of Abolitionists as fraught with ruin to the country. On this point his biographer defends him against the views of Schouler and Von Holst. This portion we consider the least satisfactory of the book. In the case of the Caroline and the boundary disputes he scoured the timidity of Webster, and later came into direct conflict with him, charging the improper retention and expenditure of public funds belonging to the secret service. Upon this matter he preferred charges, which an investigating committee, while perfunctorily exonerating Webster, left open to the inference that they were not unfounded. It was unfortunate that the attack was made; it is an instance of Mr. Ingersoll's indiscretion, for whatever the foundation the fact remains that Mr. Webster was too important and influential a character to be publicly immolated. Mr. Webster's escape was largely due to the action of Jefferson Davis. In the spring of 1847 Mr. Ingersoll was nominated by Polk for the French mission, but failed of confirmation in the Senate, on the representation by Webster that his success would be an endorsement of the charges against himself. With the expiration of the Thirtieth Congress Mr. Ingersoll retired from public life at the age of sixty-seven, and devoted himself to the practice of the law, and to historical work. He published a *History of the War of 1812*, a volume of *Recollections*, and a pamphlet upon *African Slavery in America*, aiming to avoid the fermentation of excitement. He spent much time in the company of exiled French officers who sought, with Joseph Bonaparte, an asylum in Philadelphia—Grouchy, Clausel, Bernard, Desnouettes, Vandamme and others. The well-known Mrs. Maury gives charming descriptions of his attractive personality, while Judge Sharswood and others describe him as an extraordinary advocate at the bar. He affected some oddities in dress, but was always welcome in society as an interesting talker. He deprecated late in life the abolition movement, and advocated the election of Breckenridge and Lane, but when the shock of war came he approved of Mr. Lincoln's call for volunteers and was a friend of the Union, while disapproving of ultra measures. But he was an old man, who had long outlived his contemporaries in active life, and expired in 1862, when nearly eighty years of age.

Mr. Meigs has given us an interesting and useful book, which can be read with profit. It is free from partisanship, and while at times it lacks spirit in the narrative, it is on the whole a judicious and well-executed biography.

HAMPTON L. CARSON.

Ulysses S. Grant, and the Period of National Preservation and Reconstruction. By W. C. CHURCH, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel U. S. Vols. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1897. Pp. xi, 473.)

General Grant. By JAMES GRANT WILSON. (New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1897. Pp. vi, 390.)

General Grant's Letters to a Friend, 1861-1880. With introduction and notes by JAMES GRANT WILSON. (New York and Boston: T. Y. Crowell and Co. 1897. Pp. x, 132.)

THE first of these volumes belongs to the "Heroes of the Nations" series. It is beautifully printed, on excellent paper. There are clear and well-executed maps of Grant's campaigns. The various portraits of Grant, of many of the chief officers with whom he served, of Lincoln, Greeley, Seymour and Lee, and the views of Grant's birth-place, the house where the first surrender took place, and his tomb, are good.

In the eighty pages which deal with the birth, ancestry, education of Grant, his early experiences as a soldier in Mexico, and his career thereafter up to the outbreak of the Civil War, Col. Church has made the best presentation of this period of Grant's life made by any writer who has attempted to present them in such compact form.

In treating of the earlier movements preceding and attending the opening of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, including Belmont, Paducah, Forts Henry and Donelson, and Shiloh, the author has examined matters for himself instead of, as has been too frequently the practice, following histories and memoirs written either too soon after the events, or without due regard to the official records. Under such treatment, Shiloh appears as it was, a thorough surprise—no infantry pickets on some points of the Union line in advance of the ordinary chain of camp guards; a regiment attacking the Confederate advance supposing it an outpost; men found in their blankets asleep, and others at breakfast.

The chapters on the siege and surrender of Vicksburg vividly sketch this momentous campaign. The treatment of the battle of Iuka and subsequent movements does great injustice to Rosecrans from a failure to examine the official records, and from repeating exploded versions instead.

The handling of matters about Chattanooga will be a surprise to all who have informed themselves about the notable operations in that quarter. The trouble arises in this case also from failing to follow the record. The reader is informed that Bragg endeavored on August 17, 1863, "to turn Rosecrans' flank and envelop his right, but he was driven back after sharp fighting" and that "on the 18th Rosecrans continued a movement for strengthening his right." As a matter of fact, at this time the Tennessee River and two mountain ranges—one of the latter sixty miles across—separated Bragg from Rosecrans, and the armies did not come into each other's presence until three weeks after the dates named. Col. Church says: "By a brilliant strategic movement he (Rosecrans) secured possession of Chattanooga on September 19th; and the battle of Chickamauga followed on September 20th and 21st." The small detachment of Union troops which occupied Chattanooga before the battle of Chickamauga entered it ten days before the date given; the battle of Chickamauga was on the 19th and 20th, and there was no battle on the 21st. The statement that "two weeks after Chickamauga, Rosecrans was re-enforced by the arrival of Hooker's forces" will create the impres-

sion that these troops actually reached Rosecrans. As a matter of fact, they could not be advanced further than Bridgeport, beyond the mountains, until five weeks after Chickamauga, and did not reach Chattanooga until ten days after Rosecrans had been relieved.

To show how ready the quiet Grant was to assert his position and authority on all proper occasions, Gen. Hooker is represented as sending a spring wagon to the train to meet Gen. Grant on his arrival at Chattanooga, when the latter said: "If Gen. Hooker wishes to see me he will find me on this train." Hooker then appeared with offers of hospitality which were declined. This fable disappears with the statement that Grant rode horseback over the mountains to Chattanooga, that no railroad train ran to the city for weeks thereafter, and that Gen. Hooker did not reach Chattanooga until six days after Grant.

The credit of planning the reopening of the Tennessee River to supply the Army of the Cumberland is given to Gen. W. F. Smith, when, as a matter of fact, the official records clearly show that Gen. Rosecrans planned the movement before Gen. Smith reached the western army. It is true that the details were left to Gen. Smith, and that he executed them in the most brilliant manner.

If a reader should undertake to plot the movements in the battles about Chattanooga by implicitly following Col. Church's dates and descriptions the work would become a serious puzzle. Thus Hooker's battle in Lookout Valley is fixed for the day after the enemy left it. Longstreet's corps is represented as remaining at Chattanooga until November 13, though he left for Knoxville on the 4th. The point at which Sherman's forces gathered to cross the Tennessee for the contemplated attack on Missionary Ridge is fixed at Brown's Ferry, a point thirteen miles below where it really took place, and seven miles below Chattanooga, instead of six miles above it. Sherman is represented as securing a position on Missionary Ridge threatening "both flanks of the enemy, and compelling him to strengthen his right at the expense of other portions of his line." Bragg's left flank was eight miles from Sherman. Bragg's weakening his line elsewhere during the battle to strengthen it against Sherman is a myth, early asserted and long maintained, it is true, but nevertheless a pure myth.

The chapter on the "Genesis of a Great Soldier," covering the time from the Chattanooga campaign until the battle of the Wilderness, is one of the most striking yet written in regard to the characteristics of General Grant.

As in the case of the chapter on Chattanooga the story of the movements and great battles from the Rapidan to Richmond contains many errors in date which will greatly confuse readers who are not students of war history. Thus the re-organization of the corps of the Army of the Potomac just before Grant took command is placed on May 4, instead of 24; and the movements of Warren's corps in the battle of Spotsylvania on April 8 instead of May 8. These, with several other slighter differences in date, make it difficult to follow the real sequence of events.

The reader will encounter the same troubles in the chapter on the campaigns of Sherman and Thomas. Thus the noted assault on Kenesaw Mountain is fixed for June 21 instead of 27, and the theory that while unsuccessful it made it possible for Johnston to detach forces to help Lee in Virginia is an amusing novelty that has not made its impress on military history. The treatment of the Tennessee campaign under Thomas, after Sherman had started on his "holiday picnic" to the sea, is excellent. It brings out the truth that Thomas was left at the start with scarcely more than half as many effectives as Hood, and that the army of the latter was virtually destroyed.

The final surrender is graphically presented, and Grant's career as President rapidly, forcibly, and most creditably portrayed, while the picture of his last days is most pathetic.

The volume of Gen. Wilson is one of the "Great Commanders" series, which he has edited. It has one of the best engravings of Grant extant. The maps are sufficient in number, and good. The fac-similes of historical papers, such as the "Unconditional Surrender letter," the appointment as lieutenant-general, and the terms with Lee, are interesting features. The chapters on ancestry, early life, cadetship, Mexican War and subsequent life until the Civil War, present many new points. Belmont, Fort Henry, Donelson and Shiloh follow long-accepted narratives, as they must in the main, though there is no longer any reason for withholding the facts as to the want of every preparation for battle at Shiloh, and the complete surprise which so nearly overwhelmed the Union army.

The severe criticism upon Rosecrans in connection with the Iuka-Corinth campaign cannot be sustained from the records. For instance, instead of failing to pursue in obedience to orders, as charged, Rosecrans insisted upon pursuing, and was ordered not to do so by Grant himself. This error arises from following inaccurate histories instead of examining the official records. The Vicksburg campaign, Grant's masterpiece in strategy, is presented in clear and compact form.

The author in treating the Chattanooga campaign wholly ignores Grant's statement that upon arriving he found that General Thomas had planned for opening the Tennessee river, and the further statement of Thomas, that the plan originated with Rosecrans, and assigns the whole to Grant; another instance of following early myths instead of the open record.

The account of the now well-understood battle of Chattanooga is elaborate and well written, but contains more glaring errors than any previous publication from a writer of standing. For instance, "Wood, Sheridan and Turchin" are represented to be the force which stormed Missionary Ridge. The assaulting force, however, was composed of the divisions of Wood, Sheridan, Johnson and Baird. Turchin's command was only a brigade in Baird's division. This latter is represented as charging with Sherman's troops two miles away from its real assault, and,

says General Wilson, "This charge of Baird's" (which was neither ordered nor made) "was one of the incidents of the day."

But the most striking illustration of the inaccuracy of this book as history is found in the following description (p. 197) of Sherman's first advance against Missionary Ridge :

"At 1 p. m. Sherman gave the order to advance on Missionary Ridge. With a hundred guns playing upon them, and with as many more answering from the Federal heights, his command gained the foot of the advanced spur of Missionary Ridge, climbed it through storms of shot and shell, beat back the bayonets that wreathed its top, clambered over the hot muzzles of the guns upon its summit, and at half-past three planted their banners there, a step nearer the superior heights frowning above. Two brigades were at once ordered to this advanced position to hold it, artillery was brought up and mounted, and soon the captured height was made impregnable to any Confederate force likely to be thrown against it."

As a matter of fact, there was not a gun fired by either side during the entire movement until after Sherman had reached his position, and then only a few between infantry skirmishers. The crest gained had not been occupied by the enemy, and when Sherman advanced at 1 p. m. there was not a single Confederate soldier within a mile and a half of it, not one was dispatched toward it until 2 p. m., and not one reached it at any time.

The eastern campaigns are presented in an interesting manner, though not altogether free from the Chattanooga method, and the reader will be attracted by the chapters on the political life, the entertaining private correspondence, the trip around the world, and the story of the last days and death of the great captain.

The most important aim of writers and publishers at this distance from the war should be accuracy. When the official record can be commanded by every one, there is no excuse either for writers or publishers in mar- rying their work with serious errors which a few hours' examination of the *War Records* series would enable them to eliminate.

General Wilson's *Letters to a Friend* is, from first to last, a deeply interesting volume. It contains fifty letters written by General Grant to his friend Elihu B. Washburne in the freedom and the confidence of their close relations. They treat of officers, of campaigns, of reasons for action, of policies, of cruel criticisms, of political affairs, of his observations abroad—and all in the simple style and interesting method for which General Grant was noted. It is in every way, except for its brevity, a most satisfactory volume.

H. V. BOYNTON.

Life of General George Gordon Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac. By RICHARD MEADE BACHE. (Philadelphia : Henry T. Coates and Co. 1897. Pp. xxii, 596.)

THE announcement of a life of Meade by a near relative who was old enough to recollect the current impressions of the general's career whilst